

Women's Christian Association which was organized in 1870 by Black women in South Philadelphia. The mission of the Colored Women's Christian Association was to provide residential living in a Christian environment for young, newly freed Black women coming from the rural south and seeking jobs in Philadelphia. In 1912, after more than 40 years of petitioning, it was accepted as a branch of the Philadelphia Young Women's Christian Association, YWCA.

The SWBCA was a hub of community activity and offered a variety of programs including poetry, music and dance. It housed an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a gymnasium and meeting rooms available for use by civic groups.

Ultimately the branch became an independent, non-profit organization. The SWBCA is well respected for its leadership in support of the advancement of Black women long before the desegregation of national women's organizations.

Mrs. Garrott was involved with the YWCA movement from an early age. As a child she took part in the many programs at the SVVBCA and as a teenager she taught swimming and tennis. She was later named Director of the Health and Physical Education Department. Throughout her decades long career, she served in many administrative capacities, not only at the SWBCA but also at YWCA's across the Nation. Today she is a revered matriarch who is nationally and internationally recognized for her contributions in support of the mission and goals of the YWCA and her beloved community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you, and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. Anne Marquess Garrott and the members of the Southwest Belmont Community Association for their many years of service.

RECOGNIZING JON TRAUB'S  
PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2012*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to compliment a staff member for years of service to the U.S. Congress.

Last week, Jon Traub ended his service as the Staff Director for the Majority Staff of the Committee on Ways and Means. He'd spent five years in this role working for both Chairman CAMP in the majority and Ranking Member McCrery in the good old days when Democrats controlled the House of Representatives.

Whether Democrat or Republican, I hope all Members of Congress recognize the important contributions our staffs make. In general, they work longer hours than we do, they get more into the details of policy-making, and we count on them to make us look good.

In his time at Ways and Means, I always found Jon to be a straight shooter. We didn't often agree on policy, but I always knew he'd give me a straight answer when I asked him a question and I always knew he had the confidence of the Chairman so I could count on his answer being correct.

I wish Jon the best in his future endeavors. I'm always sad to see good people leave Cap-

itol Hill, but with a young child, I can certainly understand the desire to lead a more normal life. Again, I thank Jon for his service, wish him the best in his future, and hope to see him in public service again.

TO EXTEND THE PAY LIMITATION  
FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS  
AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3835, a bill that represents more of a political stunt by Republicans than an honest way to address the shared sacrifice needed across the Federal Government in these difficult fiscal times. Members were not allowed to consider a bill offered by Representative CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, H.R. 3858, that would have prevented members of Congress from receiving an automatic pay raise in 2013. I would have voted in favor of that bill. With so many Americans still looking for work and struggling to pay their bills, it is only fair and right that members of Congress put their needs first. However, Republicans chose to tie our salary freeze with those of Federal employees. Previously, they had not been linked. I regret that House Republicans thought it was more important to score political points than showing the American people that Members of Congress on a bipartisan basis support the existing Congressional pay freeze. Such actions only serve to deepen the cynicism of Americans who have grown increasingly fed up with the polarization of Congress.

HONORING MRS. LAVERDA O.  
ALLEN

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2012*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Mrs. LaVerda O. Allen as she turns 80 years old. On behalf of our diverse Bay Area community, I would like to personally wish Mrs. Allen a very happy birthday surrounded by family, friends, colleagues and community leaders. Her efforts to advance equal education and work opportunities for women and people of color have spanned over 6 decades. Mrs. Allen is truly an icon in the African American community, and the broad reach of her influence continues to touch communities, both near and far.

A long-time Oakland and East Bay resident, Mrs. Allen moved to Oakland with her family in 1943. After graduating early, with honors, from Oakland Technical High School, she attended the University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco State University, where she received a B.A. in Social Work and an M.A. in Education Administration. During her early career as an educator, Mrs. Allen helped to develop curriculum throughout the Berkeley Unified School District and Peralta Community College District. She also assisted in developing the first financial aid program for state

community colleges. Together with her husband and business partner, she ran Bay Cities Beauty Supplies, an entrepreneurial enterprise focused on hair care products for African Americans. Furthermore, her trailblazing experience as a woman and minority business owner led her to a path of advocacy that would pave the way for countless others to follow.

For more than 20 years, Mrs. Allen has been Owner and Principal of The Allen Group, LLC, (TAG) a project and construction management firm committed to advocating on behalf of minority businesses in the engineering-construction industry. She is a stalwart leader in the development of minority, woman-owned and disadvantaged business enterprise programs, and has been a consultant developing agendas to empower architects, engineers and construction contractors in this field since 1971. She and TAG have held management roles in large-scale, complex projects that have been critical to the future of sound Bay Area infrastructure.

Among her many accolades, LaVerda Allen has received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. She is an active and prominent member of myriad organizations advocating for the rights of children and the mentally ill. She co-authored the Nation's first Affirmative Action program that called for minority participation by craft, has served on the San Francisco Human Rights Advisory Committee, and was instrumental in the passage of the San Francisco Minority and Woman Owned Business ordinance in 1988. She was a cofounder of the National Association of Minority Contractors, served as the chair of the Berkeley chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Education and Labor Committee during the civil rights movement, and was a board member of the Berkeley Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Therefore, on behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, Mrs. LaVerda O. Allen, I salute you for your amazing achievements and on this remarkable milestone. Thank you for your many continued contributions to equality, prosperity and justice in our communities. I wish you much more success, happiness and well-being in the coming years. And, once again, Happy Birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2012*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on December 17, 2010, I regret that I was not present to vote on H.R. 306, H.R. 1162, and H.R. 2606.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all bills.

IN HONOR OF ROSA PARKS

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Rosa Parks,